(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the use of liver extracts is harmful to the user as it results in bacterial and viral diseases; and

(c) if so, Government's perception with regard to the use of animal product in medicinal preparations in view of the fact that liver extracts cannot be tested for viral contamination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Use of Haemoglobin has been prohibited in Iron preparations. Liver extracts are used in certain vitamin preparations for vitamin B12 activity.

(b) and (c) No reports about the harmful effects of liver extracts have been received even though the formulations containing liver extracts are in use in many countries for a considerable period of time.

Handling of major disaster cases by city government Hospitals

2284. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the city's Government hospitals are incapable of handling cases of major disasters and due to non-availability of beds in the disaster management wards, the victims are invariably referred to other hospitals;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment of the working of the special disaster management wards in the hospitals and lack of co-ordination between the hospitals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) All the Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, AIIMS and the Hospitals under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, MCD are capable of handling patients in connection with disasters and no patient is referred to other hospitals due to non-availability of beds.

The hospital of NDMC accepts all types of cases including Disaster-Victims, as and when they report for treatment. However, no specific beds for Disaster management have exclusively been allocated.

(b) to (d) AH the Central Government Hospitals, AIIMS and the hospitals under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and MCD have well defined disaster management plans, which are well established and regularly monitored by the hospital authorities.

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has set-up a High level inter-agency co-ordination committee, which periodically reviews all the plans at the State Level for ensuring better preparedness. It has formulated the State Disaster Management Plan which envisages reviewing and updating of Hospital Disaster Management Plan by all Hospitals; the city has been divided into nine districts with one major hospitals identified as Nodal Disaster Management Hospital in each district; special training to Doctors; progressive strengthening of the two major Ambulance Services namely CATS and St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

The AIIMS has a documented disaster management plan, which is activated to face such challenges.

Deaths due to Expired Medicines

† 2285. SHRI KHANGHUFRANZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Rashtriya Sahara, dated 6th July, 2001, wherein it has been brought out that from 1995 to 1998 in G.B. Pant Hospital, seventy four people died of consuming expired medicines;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry committee has been constituted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the matter is being investigated bv the Crime Branch of Delhi Police in the Court of Smt. Sangeeta Dingers, Additional Session Judge.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.